



7-25-1912

## The Independent, V. 38, Thursday, July 25, 1912, [Whole Number: 1932]

The Independent

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COLLEGEVILLE, PA.

DESTROYED ALL ALMANACS THAT BORE THE FIGURES 1912.

almanac with his hand. "Woman, what does it say here, huh?"

"It says 'Tuesday, Jan. 10,'" admitted Lucy.

"Of course it does! Then what's the matter with you, huh?"

"You've got the wrong almanac, Timothy," Lucy declared in a bright

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**Timothy Barton's Almanac**

A Story of a Man's Obsinacy

By CLARISSA MACKIE

Timothy stared at his wife, then glanced at the almanac in his hand and saw that it was true. He held last year's almanac. But Timothy was a Barton. He would not give in that he had made a mistake—oh, no—now that Lucy had called his attention to the fact, if she had said nothing, but quietly permitted him to celebrate his natal anniversary on any date he chose out of the calendar and he had found out the mistake afterward, all would have been well.

But Lucy had spoken. "The fat was in the fire," to quote Little River folks.

Timothy Barton obstinately contended in the face of the almanac makers of the world that he was right. He swore up and down that the 1911 calendar was the proper one for this year.

"Ain't you going to church, Timothy?" asked Lucy on the following Sunday morning, for after breakfast he had taken down his overcoat and cap and wound his everyday muffler around his neck.

Timothy stared aggressively at her. "I didn't know there was church on Saturday," he grunted as he pulled on his mittens. "Seen anything of my bush scythe? I left it in the entry last night."

Lucy stared at him with frightened eyes. "Timothy Barton, what are you going to do?" she demanded.

"Going to clear out the underbrush in the south woods," he said defiantly. "You Sunday?"

"You Sunday?" retorted Timothy obstinately.

"You know better than that, Timothy," she wailed. "When are you going to church if you don't go today?"

"I'm going tomorrow—on Sunday," he retorted, pointing to the last year's calendar hanging on the wall.

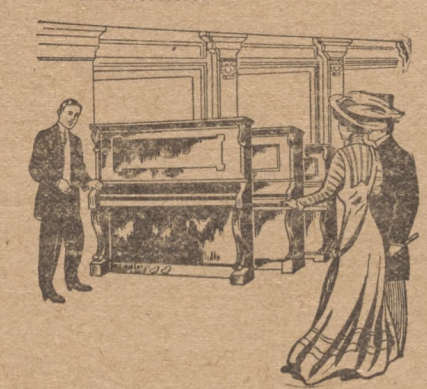
"There won't be any church tomorrow, and you know it."

"It's not my fault, I'll go, and if it ain't open it's the fault of them whose business it is to look after such things!" Timothy retorted the doorknob impatiently. "Seen that bush scythe, Lucy?" he repeated.

Lucy arose and looked her husband in the eyes. "Yes, Timothy Barton, I saw your bush scythe. I saw you clean it off and hang it up in the tool shed last night, the same way you do every Saturday night!"

Timothy winced and colored, but his lips set firmly.

"Are you going to church this morning?" demanded Lucy sternly.



She went to church alone. She was glad that her husband had the forbearance to do his Sabbath breaking in the solitude of the woods and not in the face of all Little River.

How was she to explain his absence from church? He might contradict whatever excuse she might make up. She was in a quandary what to do.

At least she could go and come so hastily that none might intercept her.

And she did. But the people spoke of it afterward—how Lucy Barton had been late at church and had run away from it before anybody had a chance to say how do you do. They wondered where Timothy was, but they ceased to wonder when some one reported that Timothy had been observed cutting brush while the church bells were ringing.

On Monday Timothy dressed himself in his Sabbath clothes and walked sedately to church, creating no little excitement as he passed along the village street.

"Somebody must be dead—there's Timothy Barton all dressed in his best black!" cried one.

"Tain't Lucy, for I saw her hanging out her wash," observed another.

"He's gone into the churchyard, and I declare to me if he ain't going into church or trying to!" Curious faces peered over clotheslines and from window corners as Timothy Barton creaked up the steps of the church, tried the door and then turned away and went back home.

"I shan't rest a minute till I find out!" declared Mrs. Clarence Sayles, twisting the last clothespin into its place on the line and wrapping her red hands in her gingham apron. "I told Clarence that something was up when Timothy didn't go to church yesterday."

"I'll bet the Barton temper is at the bottom of it!" said her sister-in-law, Bessie Sayles.

But somehow they never really arrived at the true solution of the trouble, although Timothy's actions were eccentric for another seven days.

Meantime Lucy had had a consultation with her pastor and came away with renewed courage. The Rev. Mr. Pudderson employed up to the minute methods in settling the difficulties of his parish. He did not offer to pray with Timothy. He knew that that would only add fuel to the man's obstinacy.

"It's the only way you can break through it, Mrs. Barton," he said as he shook hands with her at the door.

Lucy was very busy in her room that evening. At breakfast the next morning Timothy, eating his pancakes in sullen silence, did not notice that his wife's hair was dressed with unusual care, and he could not guess that under the clean print wrapper she wore was hidden her best dress.

Timothy was cutting cordwood now, and when he had finally disappeared in the woods his wife had finished her last household task, slipped off the wrapper and made ready to go out. She did not wear her fur cloak—the one Timothy had given her as a wedding present—but she did wear a warm cloak that had been hers before they were married.

She had a note all written, and she left it on the kitchen table where he could read it when he returned at dinner time. By the time she was ready the station stage had backed up to the door, and Lucy entered it, carrying a small traveling bag. Mrs. Clarence Sayles and her sister-in-law, Bessie, had another topic to wonder over.

At noon Timothy tramped up to the kitchen door, propped his ax against the house and went in. At sight of the clean, dinnerless kitchen a look of wonder came into his face. A vague fear clutched at his heart. Something must have happened to Lucy! She was sick. He had defied God and man and the almanac, and punishment would be his!

A quick tour of the little house failed to divulge the whereabouts of his wife. When he returned to the kitchen he found the note. He grew very pale and leaned against the wall while he read it. The handwriting was very trembly, as if Lucy had been agitated when she wrote the note.

"Dear Timothy," it read, "according to my marriage certificate we were married on Feb. 23, 1908. If, as you say, your almanac is correct there wasn't any Feb. 29 in 1908, and so we weren't ever married at all. Such being the case, I am going away to stay with my cousin, Lydia Beems, in Centerville. Goodbye. Your friend, Lucy Beems."

"P. S.—Of course if your calendar was last year's, everything would be all right—same as before."

All that long afternoon Timothy Barton sat and stared at the calendars on the kitchen wall. They all bore the figures "1911," and yet this was the year 1912.

It was over small matters like these that the Bartons and the themselves out—had broken hearts and warped lives.

Timothy struggled bravely with his inherent obstinacy.

At sunset he tore the out of date calendars and almanacs from the wall and stuffed them in the fire. He went out and harnessed Brownie to the top buggy, and he put in plenty of rubbers for warmth, for it was a long ride to Centerville.

He was going to bring his wife home. He was going to give in.

The Barton obstinacy had succumbed to love for a woman.

It was the year 1912.

Maybe It Was Accidental.

Pastor Goodsole had just preached a sermon on "Gossiping." It may have been, therefore, wholly unintentional that he gave out the first stanza of the closing hymn in this wise:

Blow ye the trumpet, blow  
The gladly solemn sound!  
Let all the neighbors know  
To earth's remotest bound.

He looked preternaturally solemn, and there wasn't the slightest flicker of an eyelash.—Chicago Tribune.

A Sample.

"Why did you cover that board with paint and lean it against your gatepost?"

"That," replied Mr. Growcher, "is a sample for the benefit of the people who won't believe paint is fresh until they have rubbed their fingers across it"—Washington Star.

True to Life.

"What success have you had with the portrait of your mother-in-law?"

"Tremendous. It is such a speaking likeness that my brother, when he came to look at it, instinctively put his finger behind his back!"—Filigree Blatter.

Rivers and a Mountain Range.

The range of the Blue Ridge mountains in Pennsylvania is divided by a river every twenty-seven miles, as follows: From Susquehanna to the Swatara, twenty-seven miles; from the Swatara to the Schuylkill, twenty-seven miles; from the Schuylkill to the Lehigh, twenty-seven miles; from the Lehigh to the Delaware, twenty-seven miles. At the next twenty-seven miles is a hollow of New Jersey, in which nestles a lake known as Culvers pond.

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Striped Serges, 12 1-2c., 25c. and 50c.  
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15c. If interested in Underwear, see our line of Union Suits, 25c. to \$1.25 for Ladies'; \$1.00 for Men's.  
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Try a Sablin Waist for summer comfort, \$1.00 to \$1.50.  
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\$1.25 Ladies' Waists reduced to 98c.  
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Star Cream and Neufchatel Cheese, just in.

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